

MTA-2013

4 April 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- March 1982

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

March was an unusually hectic month for bureau personnel. The most outstanding event was the continuing strife in the West Bank and Gaza, reportedly the worst since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The violence heightened after a 10 March announcement by the Jordanian Government that a death penalty would be imposed on members of village leagues in the territories who cooperate with Israeli occupation authorities. The next day Israel retaliated by outlawing the National Guidance Committee, a group reportedly supported by the Palestine Liberation Organization. This was followed later in the month by the dismissal of the mayors of Al-Birah, Nabulus and Ramallah for refusing to cooperate with the Israelis and for pro-PLO activity. A host of protests, demonstrations and terrorist acts ensued, resulting in at least seven deaths and scores of injuries. Many Arab merchants closed their shops, students held strikes and some Arab villages were blockaded by Israeli security forces. Israeli officials said only a minority of Arabs were taking part in the violence and that those persons were incited by outside elements.

The Hebrew section kept a close watch on these events and editors were often occupied with alerting embassy political officers and updating them on the latest developments. The alerts and the heavy processing of fast-breaking news reports resulted in a statement by Deputy Chief of Mission William Brown at the Country Team meeting on the 26th, praising FBIS for its monitoring effort and saying it was of "prime importance" to the mission.

The Hebrew section also had its hands full following conflicting and varied reports on the day-to-day countdown leading to the 26 April Israeli turnover to Egypt of the occupied Sinai region. The main headaches for the Israeli Government were opposition by some Jewish groups to the abandonment of the Yamit district, which adjoins the Gaza Strip and a border demarcation dispute with Egypt over a few hectares of land near Elat on the Red Sea. (The land is the site of a popular holiday resort village.) The withdrawal issue was complicated by arguments over the amount of compensation that should be given to the evacuees. The issue was finally resolved on 30 March at an unusually stormy Knesset session when a bill financially compensating the evacuees was passed. As part of the

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Israel-Egypt normalization, Egyptian foreign Minister 'Ali made two trips to Israel during the month.

Another key topic prompting a large amount of processing was the situation involving the Druze inhabitants of the Golan Heights. Many Druze have refused to accept identification cards issued by the Israeli civil administration or even hold contacts with the Israelis since Israel effectively annexed the area in December of last year.

Other events during the month included a visit to Israel by President Mitterrand of France, which resulted in a flood of speeches, press conferences, interviews, commentaries, editorials, reportage and extended bureau operating hours, the circumstances of a "fatigue" suffered by Prime Minister Begin during the Mitterrand trip, visits by the British and Australian foreign ministers, two visits by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib in an effort to defuse the still simmering conflict in southern Lebanon, and Begin's surviving of two Knesset nonconfidence motions, albeit one was a 58 to 58 tie. Upon completion of the latter vote, on the 23d, Begin asked the Cabinet members if they wanted him to resign and the Cabinet, after a session lasting until the early hours of the morning on the 24th, rejected his offer by a vote of 12 to 6. During the Knesset debate and the Cabinet meeting the bureau suffered several communications outages, prompting duty editor [] to telephone the FBIS Wire with the results of the Knesset vote. No less than 12 critic messages were wirefiled by the bureau during the Knesset and Cabinet sessions.

STAT

The result of all the above and other events in Israel and Turkey was that a total of 405,300 publishable words were filed for the month including 33,170 on the 24th (mostly related to the second nonconfidence vote). The monthly total was the highest in several years and the total for the 23d broke a 1-day record set last month by more than 3,000 words.

On 30 March the first edition of the new Likud Party weekly, YOMAN HASHAVU'A, appeared on the newsstands. The publication, sponsored by Prime Minister Begin's Likud party, featured a lengthy interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon containing remarks critical of U.S. policy toward the West Bank issue. Excerpts of the interview were filed in four takes. In response to a special request, the item was later refiled to the State Department. It is anticipated that the publication will become an important processing source, giving consumers insight into the thoughts of members of the ruling coalition.

B. Lateral Services

During U.S. special envoy Philip Habib's two visits to Israel, the bureau was again tasked with supplying to him copies of

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material processed by FBIS bureaus on important Middle East political and military developments. Embassy political officers said Habib had requested that the first delivery of copy be waiting for him at the airport so that he could read it en route to Jerusalem. Several subsequent deliveries by Embassy political officers were also made during each visit. ✓

C. Technical

Bureau technicians, working in conjunction with regional engineer [] on TDY in Tel Aviv, rewired all of the bureau's monitorial booths for 115/220 volt operation. STAT

A new teletype patch panel was also installed and teletype circuits were rewired for 20-MA operation to standardize them with other Middle East bureaus.

A RAS-10 dipole antenna was installed on the embassy roof as was a new television antenna, with a preamplifier to replace an antenna damaged in a recent storm. Initial reception results indicate good reception of Egyptian telecasts.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Hebrew monitor [] EOD 7 March. STAT

Hebrew monitor [] received a QSI 7 March STAT

Hebrew monitor [] promoted to FSN-9 21 March. STAT

Recruitment began for a teletypist to replace the resigning [] who will soon be married and live in the United States. her STAT
resignation is effective 21 April.

III. VISITS

Regional engineer [] visited bureau on TDY from Nicosia 2 - 9 March. STAT

[] STAT

A/Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv

Attachment:
Production Report

TEL AVIV BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH, 1982ATTACHMENT AI. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 405,300

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 80,100

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,280

	<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS</u> <u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	6,543 min.	10,590 min.	50 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran	7,500
(Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran	0
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in English to Cyprus	1,000
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus	2,300
(Clandestine) Our Radio in Turkish to Turkey	1,100
(Clandestine) Voice of Turkish Communist Party in Turkish to Europe and Turkey	5,900

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English	17,100
Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew	145,700
Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew	19,400
Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew	16,000
Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew	12,100
Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English	1,300

<u>BROADCASTS</u>	<u>PRESS</u> <u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>
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ISRAEL (cont'd)

Jerusalem POST IN

English

39,300

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in

Hebrew

2,700

Tel Aviv DAVAR in

Hebrew

12,300

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in

Hebrew

27,700

Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in

Hebrew

0

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in

Hebrew

4,400

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in

Hebrew

32,500

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in

Hebrew

10,000

Tel Aviv BEMAHANE in

Hebrew

0

Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in

Hebrew

3,800

LEBANON

Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in

English

0

TURKEY

Ankara Domestic Service in

Turkish

24,000

Ankara ANATOLIA in

Turkish

900

Ankara ANATOLIA in

English

15,300

Ankara ANATOLIA in

French

100

0

STAT

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in

English

900

USSR

Moscow in

Dari to Afghanistan

0

Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in

Hebrew to Israel

2,000

TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR MARCH 1982 ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 405,300 (351,500)
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 80,100 (63,800)
DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 15,658 (14,832)
HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 33,170 ON 24 March
LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 5,300 ON 6 March
2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 6.25 HOURS, 1.2 PERCENT.
OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 6.25 HOURS, 1.2 PERCENT.
EXTENDED OUTAGES: 2.0 hours on 20 March due to power failure at
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3. MESSAGES RECEIVED VIA THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT FOR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
TEL AVIV TOTALED 1,065 , OF WHICH 1,019 CARRIED THE BUREAU AS AN
ADDRESSEE.
4. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX, DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 1,560 (0)

NB. Figures from preceding month in parentheses.